HIS

MAJESTIES

Moſt Gracious

LETTER

TO THE

PARLIAMENT

OF

SCOTLAND.

Together with the

SPEECHES

Of His Majeſties High Commiſſioner; And the Lord High Chancellor of SCOTLAND.

At the Opening of the ſixth Seſſion of the PARLIAMENT.

On *Tueſday* the Eighth of *September*, 1696.

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Fellows -

His MAJESTIES moſt Gracious

LETTER

To the PARLIAMENT of *SCOTLAND*,

WILLIAM R.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE continuance of the War obliging Us to Call you together at this time, for your own Safety and Security, as well as for Our Service, and hindering Us to be preſent in Perſon: We have appointed Our Right Truſtee, and Right well Beloved Couſin and Councellor, JOHN Earl of *Tullibardine* to be Our Commiſſioner, for Repreſenting Our Perſon and Authority in this Seſſion of Parliament. The knowledge We have of his Capacity, as well as of his zealous Affection, and firm Fidelity to Our Perſon and Government, will certainly render him Acceptable. We have fully Inſtructed him in all that may concern the Good and Welfare of that our Antient Kingdom, and the Intereſt of Our Service; And therefore you are to give him entire Truſt and Credit. He is to Ask nothing of you in Our Name, but what your own Safety makes neceſſary.

The Delivery that *God Almighty* lately gave Us, from that Imminent Danger to which both Our Perſon and Kingdoms were Expoſed, by the Crafty and Bloody Deſigns of Our Enemies; is freſh in your Remembrance, and Calls for Our Joint Care and Providence for the future.

The Supplies Granted in the laſt Seſſion of Parliament, are now almoſt expired; And you alſo know how much the Funds thereto appointed, are ſunk below Expectation.

The Continuing of the Forces, the Buying of Arms and Ammunition, the Repairing of Forts and Gariſons, and the Proviſions for your Frigats, being all for your own Defence, with the other Charges and Contingencies of the Government, will readily perſwade you to give what is Needful, for

thoſe

thoſe Ends. And that in the moſt effectual and eaſie manner, Recruits dur.ng the War muſt alſo be had ; which We hope you will provide in ſuch w . ; as may beſt prevent Abuſes.

We have Impowered Our Commiſſioner, to Give Our Royal Aſſent, to ſuch Laws as ſhall be judged neceſſary, for the better Securing to Our Subjects their Rights and Properties.

It hath been, and ſhall ſtill be Our Royal Care, to Preſerve you in Peace and Safety, and to Promote your Welfare and Proſperity : And therefore We expect you will Treat and Conclude all Matters, with that Prudence, Calmneſs and Concord, as will be moſt to Our Satisfaction, and no leſs to your own Honour and Advantage ; And ſo we bid you heartily Farewel.

Given at our Court at Loo the 28 Auguſt 1696. *And of Our Reign the Eighth year.*

THE SPEECH

OF

John Earl of *Tullibardine.* His Majeſties High Commiſſioner to the PARLIAMENT of *SCOTLAND.*

On Tueſday the Eighth of September. 1696.

My Lords and Gentlemen.

WE Enjoy the Unvaluable Bleſſing of a King, who is not only of the ſame Religion with Us, but who daily Expoſes himſelf to the greateſt Dangers for it's Defence & Our Safety ; all good Men had a juſt Senſe of this, on the happy Diſcovery of the late horrid Deſign of Aſſaſſination and Invaſion, and I wiſh, We may Show Our Gratitude to God as we ought for that Delivery ; and in the next place that you chearfully imbrace this Opportunity of giving new Marks of Your Duty to the King ; Who if He ſhould require any thing from You for his own particular Uſes, I am perſwaded This Parliament would readily agree to it, but His Majeſty Deſires nothing from You, but that You take this occaſion to do every thing, that's neceſſary for Your Own and the Kingdoms Safety in Preſerving all that's dear to Us from His and Our Enemies.

I know You are ſo fully convinced of the Neceſſity there is of Supplies for the Support of the Government and Maintainance of the Standing Forces, that I need not make Uſe of Arguments: Therefore I ſhall only mention what is neceſſary to be Provided, and is expected from you by the King.

The Fonds of the laſt Supplies are fallen ſo ſhort, that the Troops are already much in Arear, and the late deſigns againſt Us made it Remarkable, how ill We were Provided of Arms and Ammunition, and that the Garitons and Forts are much out of Repair.

What was Appointed for Buying and Maintaining of Ships to Guard Our Coaſts, is alſo come to much leſs than was Imagined

What You give for theſe Ends, the King does Expect will be as large as You can, and in the moſt Equal & Eaſie Manner for the Country, and when the Recruits are wanted for Our Troops Abroad, that You take Care they be ordered with as little Expence and Trouble as can be.

It is Expected You will take the moſt effectual Method for Putting the Kingdom in a Poſture of Defence, which may be a Means for Diſcouraging Our Enemies from Forming Deſigns to Diſturb Our preſent Quiet and Happineſs.

I am Inſtructed to Paſs Acts for Suppreſſing of Profanity, and for Curbing of Vice: And it is expected, what you do in this, may be made effectual for obtaining the Ends, and that they be afterwards Impartially put in Execution by thoſe of the Government. And I muſt tell you my Lords and Gentlemen, That your Sincere Endeavours and Example in this, will very much Recommend you to Our King.

I am Allowed by His Majeſty to aſſure you, that he is reſolved to Maintain Presbyterian Government in the Church of *Scotland*; And that it will be very acceptable to Him, that Difference amongſt Church-Men be Compoſed: And He particularly Recommends moderation in thoſe Matters.

I am Allowed to give encouragement to Univerſities and Schools, which Laſt, are wanting in too many Places, eſpecially in the Highlands

I am alſo Impowered to Conſent to ſuch Laws, as ſhall be neceſſary for Securing your Rights and Properties.

This Seaſon of the Year, In which the Kings other Affairs hath Obliged Him to Call you, Do's Require your Diligence in Putting an End to the Affairs before you, as ſoon as poſſible you can. And I am glad to have Ground to Hope, you will manage them with that Unanimity and Concord, which the King hath ſo often Recommended to you.

I ſhall not Trouble you with what concerns my ſelf, I am very ſenſible of my Unfitneſs for the Weighty and Honourable Charge I bear: I can only ſay, That I Earneſtly Deſire, to be Inſtrumental in doing Service to my King and Country, and am very Confident of your hearty Concurrence.

THE

THE SPEECH OF

PATRICK *Lord* POLWARTH, *Lord* High-Chancellor *of* Scotland.

At the Opening of the ſixth Seſſion of the Parliament *of* Scotland.
On *Tueſday* the eight of *September*, 1696.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

YOur being again Called together, while our Sovereign Lord the King is abroad beyond Sea, is a new Proof of His Majeſties great Confidence in you, which no doubt, will be a ſtrong Obligation upon you, to Acquit your ſelves as Dutifully as if His Majeſty were preſent with you.

This is our firſt Meeting, ſince it pleaſed the Almighty to give us a great Deliverance, by Diſcovering and Defeating the late Execrable and Helliſh Plot, and Conſpiracy, for Aſſaſſinating our King, and Invading his Kingdoms.

That Signal Mercy of His Majeſties Preſervation, cannot but Enlarge our Hearts, in Thankfulneſs to God, in Love to our King, and in Reſolution and Vigilancy againſt his Enemies.

It is an ineſtimable Bleſſing that God has ſet over us, and preſerves unto us, a King not only Profeſſing the Reform'd Religion, but who alſo is ſo Pious in the Practice, and ſo Zealous in the Defence of it.

A King who has given to this Nation, many Convincing, Demonſtrations of his Peculiar Favour towards it; And among others, that of Eſtabliſhing Presbyterian Government

in

in this Church, and giving us Aſſurance that he will maintain it: Let our Prudence, Charity, and Moderation ever Encourage Him to do it.

His Majeſty and his Kingdoms, have very Powerful Enemies, who with Mighty Armies, do what they can to continue the War: While they are ſo Diligent, we are not to be Remiſs nor Secure.

'Tis true this War, is the greateſt that ever was in *Europe*, and wherein we are neceſſarily ingag'd, is by the Bleſſing of God upon the Courage, and Conduct of our King, removed to ſuch a Diſtance, as that we the Subjects, know little of it, but by the News we hear: We live at home, free from the Calamities which afflict the Seat of a War; but at the ſame time, our King, our Deliverer Travels, and Watches by Day and by Night, Traverſes Sea and Land, expoſes his precious Life to Dangers, that we may be in Safety, and that we may be at Eaſe.

We are then to Conſider ſeriouſly what Stedable Service we can do to his Majeſty, in a Senſe of our Duty and Gratitude: and to ſet about it, with all Diligence and Unanimity.

The Commiſsioner's Grace has very ſuitably to his Character of Fidelity to the King, and Love to his Country, in his Majeſties Name Recommended to you Matters which highly concern the Kings Service, and the Countries Intereſt, (the ſame thing in different Terms) ſo that I need to ſay little.

But you know, there is a neceſsity to Eſtabliſh a Fund ſufficient for paying the Forces kept in the Country, and for Maintaining the Forts and Caſtles in a fit Condition.

And becauſe, for ſparing the Kingdoms Expenſe, his Majeſty does not keep ſo many Troops here, as might be Requiſite for our Defence, in caſe any conſiderable Attempt from Abroad were made upon the Land. It is as neceſſary, that the Country be put in ſome better Poſture, and be better provided of Arms and Ammunition.

The Setling an Effectnal Method for Recruiting the Troops of this Nation which are Abroad, is one good mean, to keep

the War at the diſtance it is, and nothing can more encourage our Men to go common Souldiers, than that a good courſe be laid down, whereby they who Return diſabled from the Service, may be comfortably Maintained.

The Trade of the Nation doth likewiſe Require your Care of Maintaining Frigats for Guarding your Coaſts, and Convoying your Merchants.

It is not to be doubted, but you will gain time, every Conſideration preſsing you to it, and fall upon ſuitable Methods, to Anſwer his Majeſties expectation in theſe things: For you ſee how willing his Majeſty is to Aſſent to ſuch Laws, as are needful for ſecuring your Rights, and Properties; for Encouraging Piety and Vertue: For ſuppreſsing Vice and Profanity, for Educating your Youth, in Knowledge and Learning: And indeed to do for you, whatever doth Tend to your Proſperity and Happineſs.

Be pleaſed to Turn your Thoughts to his Majeſties other Kingdoms, in the ſame Bottom with this; and Conſider the *Engliſh*, that Wiſe, Magnanimous, and Powerful Nation, how Liberally and Couragiouſly they have Acted, in Maintaining the common Cauſe, take an Encouragement of them, and let your Actings be of Encouragement to them.

What you do, my Lords and Gentlemen, in this your High Capacity, is uſually Expreſt by a very becoming Name, it is Called the King's Service, which to ſpeak it plainly, you are Conſulting, and Acting for your Selves; you Reap the Fruit; the Advantage is yours.

How great a Happineſs is it, that what we do for our Selves, has ſuch a Vein of Love, and Fidelity to our King; incorporated with it, as makes it to Merit the Title of His Majeſties Service. And that our King as Father of the Country, is graciouſly pleaſed to Conſider the Good we do for our Selves, as the beſt Service we can do to him. May it ever be thus, let it never fail on our Part, that as our King has been a Bleſsing from Heaven to us, ſo his Majeſty may have Reaſon to think, that His Loving and Dutiful Subjects, are the like to Him.

FINIS.